

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### CDXA President Hal Bouton, N4QT - SK

Sadly, our good friend and CDXA President, Hal Bouton, N4QT, became a Silent Key on the Second of February. He passed away of an apparent heart attack. Two of Hal's stepsons, Andrew and Matthew Thigpen, kindly stopped by our Wednesday lunch on the 3rd to let everyone of Hal's passing.



Hal and Debbie

N4QT/SK	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

A service to celebrate Hal's life was held Saturday, February 6th in Harry & Bryant's Chapel in the Oaks, 500 Providence Road. Hal will be missed by all his CDXA friends, his wife Debbie, and the rest of his family, and his "best buddy" - his dog, Chase. Hal's obituary may be read [here](#).

### Future CDXA Events to Require Prepayment.

Bill Fisher, W4GRW, CDXA Vice President

I have an announcement about the way payments for CDXA events will be handled in the future.

When we contract with a restaurant or venue for a CDXA dinner or event, we have to give them a head count so they can prepare for the number of people attending.

At the last couple of CDXA dinners & events, we have had lots of last minute cancellations, or people just not showing up after making an RSVP. At the recent CDXA Christmas party, your CDXA had to pay several hundred dollars to the restaurant, instead of being able to use that money to support DXpeditions. This cannot continue.

Effective with the CDXA Charlotte Hamfest dinner, all future CDXA dinners and events will now require that you pay in advance to have your seat reserved.

To facilitate this, we will have a Paypal page setup for each event. For those of you not using Paypal, you will be

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

able to send a check to Cliff, W3ZL, before an announced deadline.

If you cancel a reservation 7 days or more in advance of the event date, your payment will be returned in full. For cancellations less than 7 days prior to the event date, you will not receive a refund.

We appreciate your understanding as we implement this new policy.

## The 2015 CDXA Hamfest and Banquet are almost here!

The Charlotte Hamfest will be back at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center on Friday and Saturday March 11 and 12. See [www.charlottehamfest.org](http://www.charlottehamfest.org) for details. CDXA will have a booth, and we'll have our "traditional" raffle. Tickets are \$2 ea. and \$5 for three. The prize will be an MFJ antenna analyzer. (Exact model TBD.) There will be an e-mail out shortly asking for booth volunteers.

The CDXA Hamfest Banquet will be held Friday, March 11 at Pike's Old Fashioned Soda Shop at 1930 Camden Road, Charlotte, with cocktails and socializing beginning at 7:30, and a buffet dinner starting at 8:00. The price per head will be \$30.00. The GRAND PRIZE to be given away after dinner is a certificate for a Yaesu FTdx1200, or that amount toward a different Yaesu. The RSVP form is at <https://goo.gl/brHsSe>.



Because of the passing of N4QT, there will also be a special election held for CDXA President. An election form will be available on-line after the 3rd of March.

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
Copyright 2016

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through [the CDXA website](http://www.cdxa.org), to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [jcw53@cornell.edu](mailto:jcw53@cornell.edu).

## ARRL DX Contests Start Soon

Paul Ponak, AD4IE

**CW starts Friday evening February 19**

**SSB starts Friday evening March 4**

Last year the CDXA moved up from number 8 to number 2 in the Medium Club category, barely edging out the Central Texas DX and Contest Club although we had 41 entries compared to the previous year's 50 entries. It's good to see CDXA up there in the top 5 again after missing it for the first time in 4 years. We had a close battle with the third place club in our category, but we were quite a distance from taking first place. This year again we're going to offer prizes to folks in the 1000, 500, and 250 contact levels (see last month's [Pileup](http://www.cdxa.org) on the CDXA website).

The rules for the contest are at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>, but here's a quick overview:

The purpose is for USA and Canadian hams to contact as many DX stations in as many entities as possible.

Both the CW and SSB contests begin at 7:00 PM EST Friday and run for 48 hours

USA stations make as many contacts and work as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Contacts with USA and Canadian stations do not count; however, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX for this contest.

You send a signal report and your state; DX stations send a signal report and power.

You get 3 points for each DX contact. You get one multiplier point for each NEW entity worked.

Your final score is your number of QSO points times your number of multipliers. Hopefully you have a computer program to do this for you.

Please be sure to include Carolina DX Association (exactly this way) in your submission to the ARRL. Also, please send me your score summary (number of contacts, multipliers, and final score) along with your entry category, single or all band, power level, with or without assistance (such as Packet Cluster) at [pponak@carolina.rr.com](mailto:pponak@carolina.rr.com) as soon as you can after the contest. We need to have all the info in time to award prizes at the CDXA dinner on March 11, so I will need all of your info by March 8.



## The Wayback Machine

Who recognizes this incredible antenna field? A list of those who answer correctly (...and I'm counting on a long list) and the details of the antennas in the picture will be included next month. I did my best to highlight the antennas, and make the picture as large as possible, but relatively skinny pieces of aluminum just don't photograph really well, even if, as here, "in the flesh" they are very impressive.

It may seem hard to believe, but this is CDXA's 35<sup>th</sup> year. The first club meeting was held in July 1981. As part of celebrating the anniversary, we're looking for ideas for a special 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo. Your (serious...) ideas are solicited. Just send them to the Editor at [jtfnv4a@aol.com](mailto:jtfnv4a@aol.com).





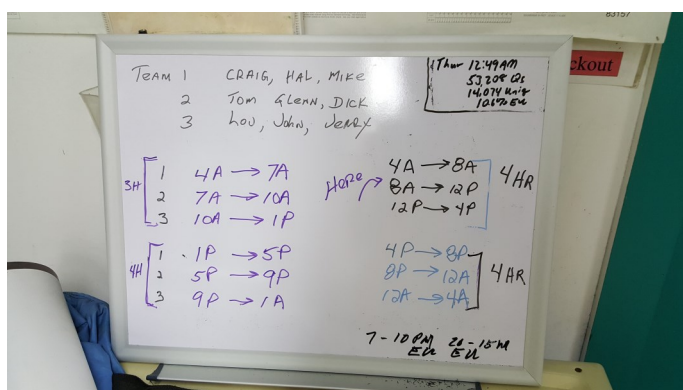
## DXpedition Fever

With two major DXpeditions activating three of the top “Most Wanted” list over the last month, I suspect a lot of us spent a bunch of time at the keys and mics. I hope everyone was successful in working South Sandwich, VP8STI; South Georgia, VP8SGI, and especially Palmyra, K5P, with Lou, N2TU as co-leader, and Dick, W3OA along both to operate, and also to make sure that logs were uploaded to Clublog *very* quickly. There are more DXpeditions to follow soon, so keep everything ready to go.

Following is an intimate look at Palmyra from W3OA. Thanks, Dick. Also, be sure to read the excellent article in the recent [special edition of the INDEXA Newsletter](#) on the Palmyra DXpedition, written by Lou.



Here's our operating location. The three operators are on the air. The empty chair is in front of the six meter (beacon) station. We did not make any six meter contacts.



The white board at the bottom of the left column is the way Lou controlled our lives while we were operating. It shows I was on Team 2. The “Here” arrow says we were currently operating on a four hour shift that started at 8 am and went to noon. We would then have eight hours off and come back to operate from 8 pm to midnight. Then we have seven hours off and operate a three hour shift from 7 am to 10 am. This is followed by seven hours off and then we start back on four hour shifts. And so it goes.



Here's Lou operating his favorite mode – RTTY. It looks like he's in one of his better moods



Here's Dick trying to get something going on 20 meters SSB. *Ed. Note: Propagation was often a bit spotty. I saw K5P spotted on 15 SSB, tuned to the freq., but couldn't hear anything. I left the receiver on anyway, while I potted about the shack. Suddenly, there was Dick yelling “QRZ UP” in my ear. ...and then he was gone. Spooky.*





This is where we ate and had most of our meetings. The kitchen is behind the wall.



The staff said we each had private cabins. I shared mine with some lizards and bugs.

And here's the inside of my cabin:



There are no “facilities” in the private cabins. This is the latrine building.



One of the five stalls in the latrine building. We were told we could urinate almost anywhere we wanted as they expected to get enough rain to effectively flush whatever we left behind. The average rainfall on Palmyra is one-half inch a day. The staff told us we were extremely lucky because we saw very little rain.



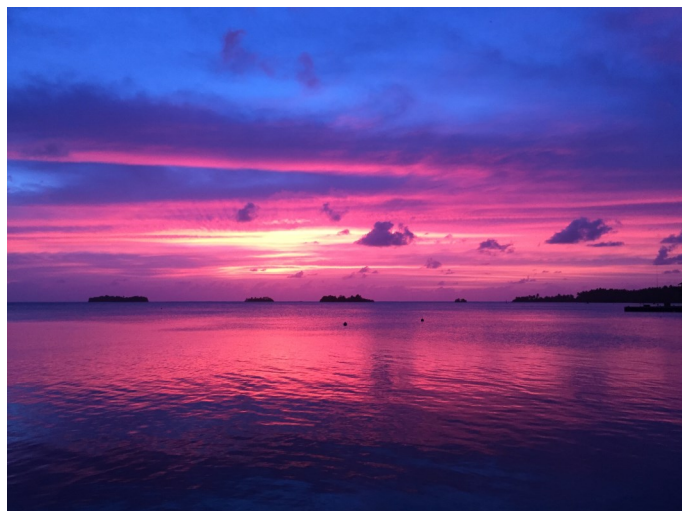


We were expected to participate in some of the community activities. These include cleaning the latrine and laundry/shower building each morning, cleaning the eating area and kitchen each evening, and raking leaves one morning.



This is Lou and his best (maybe only) friend on the Island. That's Rein, a red-footed booby.

*Ed. Note: With this view, which Dick says is from the dining area, things like not having a private toilet and having to rake leaves in your off hours, don't seem too bad:*



*One last, very important, K5P item: our buddy Ken Boyd, K4DXA/sk always wanted to go on a DXpedition. He had discussed this many times with Lou N2TU, Bill W4GRW and others. While helping deal with Ken's estate, Bill found Ken's Khaki CDXA baseball cap, with several pins on it like his ARRL Life Membership and 40 year ARRL members pin attached. Bill & Lou had the idea of letting Ken have his wish granted, and Lou took Ken's CDXA Baseball cap to Palmyra and hung it in a place of honor at the Palmyra Yacht Club Bar.*



## DX King News

Paul Ponak, AD4IE

Full details of our DX King competition are in the January 2016 Pileup. Here are the first reports as of January 31, as they were posted by participants. Dennis, K7BV, has taken an early lead in the Unlimited category but we understand that Lou, N2TU, missed some time while on a tropical island during the month. So far, Cliff, K4MLD, and Bill, N4GBK, are the only entries in their Formula and Limited fields. Good hunting to all of you and we hope that more join in this yearly event.

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K7BV	Unlimited	192	38	230
W3GQ	Unlimited	62	22	84
N4GBK	Limited	59	19	78
K4HC	Limited	49	21	70
K8YC	Unlimited	36	18	54
N2TU	Unlimited	14	12	26
K4MLD	Formula	14	8	22

Don't forget to post your scores [here](#) or send them to me by of the last day of each month.

73,  
Paul Ponak, AD4IE  
[pponak@carolina.rr.com](mailto:pponak@carolina.rr.com)

## The Back Page

- We are sad to report the passing of our good friend and CDXA President, Hal Bouton, N4QT/sk. There's a picture of Hal and his wife Debbie, along with a link to Hal's obituary on Page 1. Hal, we're going to miss you.
- The Hamfest and Hamfest Banquet are coming up soon, with most details on Page 2. Take special note of the grand prize: A certificate for a **Yaesu FTdx1200**, or the value of a 1200 toward a more expensive Yaesu radio.
- **One last reminder: Check Page 2:** The CW portion of the ARRL DX Contests starts Friday night at 1900 EST. Please help CDXA by participating. The Phone portion is coming up on Friday evening, Mar. 4. ....ditto on the participation.
- Be sure to read the announcement on Page 1 which provides information on a new CDXA policy, requiring members prepay for events.
- It's hard to believe, but this year is CDXA's 35 anniversary. We're trying to put together a 35th anniversary logo. Any ideas??
- I'll bet there are plenty of ideas about whose antenna farm that is on Page 3.
- Lou, N2TU, has written an excellent article about the K5P DXpedition to Palmyra which is published in a special edition of the INDEXA newsletter. Rather than duplicate that, there's a link on Page 4 to the article. Thanks to Lou, and to INDEXA. Also, beginning on Page 4 is a great look at "everyday" life on Palmyra during the DXpedition, with pictures and commentary by Dick, W3OA.
- On Page 6, there's a picture of the well-worn and medal-covered CDXA ball cap which belonged to our buddy and Silent Key, Ken, K4DXA, and which is now hanging in a place of honor at the Palmyra Yacht Club.
- We have our first month's DX King report on Page 6. We all expect the list and country/zone numbers to grow steadily throughout the year.

73,

John, NV4A